GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2490
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
LANDLESS FARMERS
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study on the number and conditions of landless farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of such landless farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Agriculture Census is conducted by Government of India on quinquennial basis which collects data on various parameters of agricultural operational holdings.As per the Agriculture Census 2000-01, the estimated number of landless farmers (operational holders cultivating wholly leased-in land and wholly otherwise operated land) excluding the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Meghalaya in the country was 6,60,991.

(c): The National Policy for Farmers, brought out in 2007, contains policy prescriptions regarding landless farm households.These provisions include, inter-alia, ensuring that every farmer household in villages possesses or has access to productive assets like land, livestock, fish pond, homestead farm or income through an enterprise or market driven skills so that the household income is increased substantially on a sustainable basis; implementation of laws relating to land reforms; coverage of farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural workers under a comprehensive national social security scheme.

(d): The Government is monitoring distribution of ceiling surplus land, Bhoodan land and wasteland to the landless rural poor.Besides, several employment generation schemes, like,National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme and National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas etc. are being implemented to benefit the rural poor including landless farmers.